The Negro Farmer

Published Monthly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Messenger

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 5 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., NOVEMBER, 1917 No. 11

Twenty--Seventh Annual Negro Farmers' Conference

Will be held at Tuskegee Institute January, 16 and 17, 1918

Twenty-seven years ago, Dr. Booker T. Washington organized at the Tuskegee Institute The Tuskegee Annual Negro Farmers' Conference. No organization has meant more toward the general uplift of our rural people than is true of this Farmers' Conference. Its influence has gone into the most forlorn section of the Southland and scattered the sunlight of hope and encouragement where a most miserable degree of poverty and ignorance existed. These annual meetings have inspired thousands of rural people to purchase homes, to build better houses, to remodel the broken down school buildings, to extend school terms and strike the sin of vice and immorality a death blow in many communities. No organization has given the black man a keener insight into the vast agricultural possibilities of this beautiful southland of ours than these Annual Conferences. They have proven a veritable fountain of wealth and culture to thousands of our youth who otherwise would be groping in the darkness of despair. If you are in debt and have become the least bit discouraged come to this conference and let those who have actually succeeded, who are getting real profit and pleasure out of farm life, tell you how to become independent. come and learn how, not only to meet these present high prices but how to permanently discard the mortgage system. How to become an indispensable factor in the general uplift of your community.

This promises to be the most helpful conference ever held.. Men of wide experience and rare ability have been invited to take part on the program. The following are some of the running my farm on a credit basis; to subjects: "How I have changed from running it on a cash basis."; "What we are doing for the church in our community."; "What is being done in spite of the war conditions to increase the facilities for rural education."; "Meeting on the farm the needs of the war situation."; "Live stock raising and the war." These are all vitally connected with the successful operation of the farm and you cannot afford to miss any of these sessions. Each year brings with it, along with its new problems, new responsibilities, and we can meet them satisfactorily only in proportion as we inter-change ideas. Let every man and every woman begin now to get ready for this meeting. None are too poor or too far away to attend. Efforts are being made to secure reduced rates.

Farmers' Short Course

I would also remind you of the Farmers' Short Course to be held at the Institute, January 3 to 16, under the direction of Prof. Geo. R. Bridgeforth, Director Agricultural Department, Tuskegee Institute. This is a most practical as well as helpful course and should be taken by a large number of our people. The course is arranged to meet the immediate problems of the farmer and no individual can take it without being greatly strengthened, thereby. Any further information may be had by writing to

PRINCIPAL R. R. MOTON,
or C. J. CALLOWAY,
Director Extension Department,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Closing Exercises, Macon Co., Canning Clubs. Held at New Rising Star Schoolbuilding

Helping to win the War, Macon County Canning Clubs—"A Community Center"

Meeting The Farmer Half--way

Having Fun on the Farm

By F. H. CARDOZO

Assistant Director, Agricultural Department
Tuskegee Institute

IN GENERAL

This is the time of the year that "us farmers" want a little special fun, and we are going to have it. I feel, tho, that we all need to make our work just as happy and just as pleasant the year 'round as we can possibly make it. We don't need to be "end men" in a minstrel show or monkeys on the road, or at home to have some fun,—but we can look upon our daily life, and routine with a little more genuine happiness, thus making the farm life worth living. All work and no play is injurious.

MUSIC ON THE FARM

There is good music in the braying of a mule when nearing twelve o'clock,—some mules know the hour exactly. If you want to break your sides laughing, watch two little pigs scrap. It is the most comical sight on the whole place. Where the farmer has quite a number of poultry, one can hear the hens gossiping in the distant yard. Some hens have a high tenor voice, which chimes in well with the alto of a certain rooster, and when they advertise the fact that one more high-priced egg is on hand, the whole flock takes notice. Did you ever notice that? Open your eyes and ears, you nature-lovers,—there are other "birds" on hand besides the mocker and canary. Selah.

The wisest 'possum always plays the deadest. So it is that the wisest men do more listening than talking. Try this "for fun."

BIRD SHOOTING FOR SOME

Leave some birds for the future, don't kill all. Two Irishmen were out hunting. The one carrying the gun saw a quail and carefully took aim. "Mike," shouted Pat, don't shoot! The gun ain't loaded."

But our friend the owl—as Pictured Here, is not so fast a flier, yet he will go after the moths which lay the eggs that eat the cabbage and tomatoes and such things. Why should you want to shoot HIM, if he will save you so much trouble? His song is a good one too.

Protect this class of birds by all means.

"I've got to," yelled Mike, "the bird will niver wait!"

That's the way 'tis done. A good thing some birds can fly fast.

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KILL THE RABBITS

But did you ever see so many rabbits? Kill all you can. An old dried up rabbit foot may bring good luck, but a fresh killed rabbit foot brings more nourishment. Lots of the old superstitions are going out. The fellow who has a horse shoe hanging over his door has just as many debts hanging over his head as anybody.

Lessen the debts for the dining table by eating more hare—which means rabbit.

SENSIBLE YET FUNNY

The student was observed to be paying no attention to his instructor who was telling a large class in Agriculture how to protect plants from frost, so the instructor said sharply:

"Jones, tell the class which is the best way to keep the March frosts from plants."

"Plant them in April, sir," was the ready reply.

MORAL: A fact is indisputable, even if it looks a month off. Better to have good common sense than extraordinary sense. However, learn how to save your delicate plants from a sudden frost in the month of March, only,—ha, ha.

PROVIDE PLENTY TO EAT

I like Mr. Hoover, all his Agents and all their doctrine, but give me enough to eat, please. No skimper for me. Still no wasting, for food is too dear, and hard to get.

But I feel sorry for the family that lives from "hand to mouth," whose leader is a big bluff, who half-way starves his children, who cares more for "the church" and his "lodge" than he does for his wife, and therefore a poor provider. Work at good wages, and good available farming knowledge to apply on the farm, are too plentiful for failures in any sort of practical work undertaken nowadays.

We have a fine and large number of excellent farmers in Alabama and the South, but too many are indifferent about the kind and quality of their food, about sufficient clothing for the cold months, about their bodily health generally. So many seem not to care a hang whether the cold wind is kept out of the cow shed or the horse stall during the worst months, and yet want fine results from that cow and horse. But you will never get it that way, any more than if you and I are made to suffer a long time, and then expect big things. It reminds me of this story of a "Strong Provider".

"Is your husband much of a provider, Malindy?"

"He jes ain't nothin' else, ma'am. He gwine to git some new furniture providin' he gits de money; he gwine to git the money providin' he go to work; he go to work providin' de job suits him. I neber seed such a providin' man in all mah days."

MORAL: Plenty of fun,—where there is plenty of everything to make life happy.

HOUSING MACHINERY PAYS

Meet the rising price of machinery by making every machine last longer, this is an "economy suggestion" from the agricultural engineering department of the University of Nebraska. The life of a machine may be greatly lengthened by providing proper shelter, adjusting parts for wear, lubricating freely, and making prompt repairs.

Here for Over There

Sense of Personal Participation In Winning the War Will Be Had by Making Liberty Bond Investments

"Over there" we have our boys in khaki. They are in camp and cantonment. They have responded to the call. "Over here," what are you going to do?

All may not go to the trenches. And yet to an American citizen nothing could be more distressing than the thought of not serving his country at this time. The Liberty Loan offers to every individual an opportunity of being of some assistance—the privilege of playing a part. The firing line is no farther than the nearest bank. To buy a Liberty Bond is to contribute directly, specifically, effectively toward America's victory. To buy a Liberty Bond is to deliver a more effective blow in defense of American rights and of the larger freedom. Every dollar you so invest is a shot at militarism.

Liberty! Men fight and die for it, sacrifice every penny of worldly wealth for it. But in Liberty Bonds Uncle Sam seeks no gratuity and asks no sacrifice. He offers an investment that will pay you 4 per cent interest. Your money, so invested, will be used to win the war, and your country returns you your money—with 4 per cent.

It is not to prove that we are a free nation, that we are at war with Germany. It is to live the kind of lives we have determined to live, to have the kind of institutions we desire, without restraint or dictation of Prussian autocracy, that we are at war with Germany. It is because Germany made war on us that we are at war with Germany. We were patient and long enduring while Germany committed hostile acts against us for over two years, plotting against us, practising duplicity, and destroying the lives and property of our citizens. When the final challenge was flung in our faces it was necessary for us to accept that challenge or to cease to be a free nation; to confess that our only rights were those Germany would allow us to have or to stand forth boldly, free people, forced to fight for a righteous cause, and join with the other liberty-loving nations of the earth to end the reign of brutality, despotism, and autocracy. We could only make one choice. We could not "choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our Nation and our people to be ignored or violated."

For us not to win this war will mean that every landmark of liberty has been destoryed; that all in vain have been the Anglo-Saxon struggles for free institutions and liberty; that the Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence were not written with enduring words; that the French Revolution was but a will-o'-the-wisp of democracy.

Far off in his quiet, peaceful community the farmer may feel, despite his production and conservation, a sense of aloofness from war activities. The thought will come to him that his personal participation and contribution, while important, are not sufficiently direct. For no man can feel that he has properly responded to his impulses of patriotism unless he has contributed, actually, directly, personally toward the winning of the war. The Liberty Loan offers the opportunity of such a response.

Every farmer may go to the front, by going to the bank and buying a

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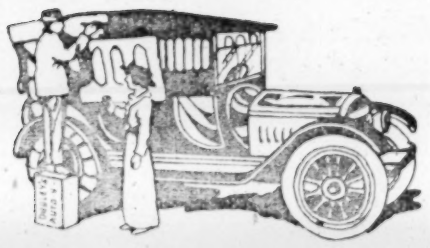

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Tuskegee, Alabama

Liberty Bond. He is not GIVING the Government anything. He is LENDING his money to the Government. He is trusting the Government for what he stands for. His dollars, so used, will bring victory.

Not only would he have sacrificed our honor and independence, but disaster to the farmers and to all American people would have followed our tame submission to that order. We have met the challenge of the German Imperial Government and money is necessary to create, coordinate, and bring into action the forces that mean victory. An overwhelming subscription to the Second Liberty Loan—to which subscriptions may be made until October 27—not only will enable our Government to prosecute to the fullest extent the just war we are now engaged in, but it will prove to the world, as the President has said, that the heart of the country is with our fighting men and with our country's cause.

Every bank in the country is expected to arrange for the purchase of bonds on easy weekly and monthly installment plans. Bonds will be issued in denominations of from $50 up.

The Liberty Loan appeals, paramountly, to patriotism, and yet, merely as an investment and without consideration of other matters, the bonds offer attractive opportunities. The bond is a sure investment. For many persons small bonds will mean the start of thrifty savings.

The Liberty Bonds are as good as cash at any time and afford the best possible security for loans for carrying on farm operations. Farmers may serve the Nation as well as themselves by buying Liberty Bonds. Will you help to win the war!

SOUR SOILS AND THEIR TREATMENT

1. A sour soil contains enough acids to retard or prevent the growth of some plants.

2. I had a field of peas this year that showed here and there bare spots and I attributed this condition to acidity of the soil.

3. Sorrel, red top as well as native growth of blackberries growing and crowding out other crops indicate soil acidity.

4. A sour soil will turn blue litmus paper red when placed in contact with each other, of course the soil must be moist.

5. Turn up a spadeful of soil to make the acid test. Take some soil from the top, middle, and bottom of the spadeful and roll it into a ball, adding water if necessary. Open the ball and insert a strip of blue litmus paper, then press the ball firmly together so there will be good contact between the soil and the litmus paper. Continue the test for 15 or 30 minutes. Go over the field and as each ball is made stick a stake so that the ball can afterward be easily found A convenient time to make the test is just after a soaking rain. If blue litmus quickly turns red it is an indication that the soil is too sour for clovers and most other legumes to thrive. A pink color indicates only slight acidity.

6. Wet, undrained lands often sour because of the slow decay of vegetation. A long series of crops which remove the lime naturally tend to produce a sour soil. The slow decay of turned under green crops tend to produce soil acidity.

7. Any alkaline substance that will neutralize the acidity will put the soil into a healthy condition for plants. Lime in some form is the cheapest alkali.

8. Lime should be thoroughly mixed with the soil by harrowing in.

9. If lime is used limestone will be the most satisfactory.

10. The test plots enable the farmer to find out what amount of lime is most profitable.

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VERNON W. BARNETT
Editor and Business Manager

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EDITORIAL

MACON COUNTY FAIR A SUCCESS

We are sorry not to be able to give in this issue, a full account of the Macon County Agricultural Fair which has just closed. We hope to tell you all about it in our next issue. We wish, however, to thank Mr. Drakeford, President, and his proficient and conscientious associates for making it possible for us to see the many signs of progress demonstrated at this Fair. This was pronounced the best and most educational Fair ever held in Macon County, Ala. Every person seemed fully inspired to make greater progress than ever before.

Prof. Geo. W. Carver, Director Experiment Station, was again at the Macon County Agricultural Fair and caused all of us to open our eyes in wonder at the many remarkable food demonstrations which he had on exhibition. The exhibits, mind you, were prepared from local products that have been for years ignored as useless, so far as food values are concerned. These are some of the exhibits which he showed:

Home-made whole wheat, dried plums, breakfast food No. 2, dried grapes, dried corn as a breakfast food, dried blackberries, locust molasses, breakfast food No. 2, dried carrots, dried pears, dried persimmons, dried squash, fig leather, sour grass for pies, sauce, etc., dried onions, peanut chocolate candy, plum and blackberry leather, home-made bran for cooking, salted peanuts, dried okra, dried beans, dried pumpkins, crab apple and grape leather, sweet potato flour, and several other preparations.

Prof. Carver is a scientific wonder of the age and under his direction there is no need of food scarcity. He demonstrates clearly that there is food in abundance all about us if we open our eyes and use what is within our very grasp.

We cannot go to press without saying a word personally of the valuable service rendered by Messrs. T. M. Campbell, United States District Agent, Geo. R. Bridgeforth, Director Agricultural Department, Tuskegee Institute, C. W. Greene, United States Farm Demonstration Agent of Macon County, Ala., in connection with the Macon County Fair. These gentlemen were immediately in charge of the Negro department. Each of them is wide awake as to the agricultural needs of our people and is contributing no litle toward the substantial progress being made by the farmers of this state. Prof. Campbell is not only proficient but patient and always gets what he goes after. The same may be said of the other two gentlemen.

BE A POSITIVE AND NOT A NEGATIVE QUANTITY

We live in a very happy age when our Nation is everywhere demanding that its citizen take a stand on the positive side of life. Indeed the fullest and truest expression of manhood and womanhood is to be found in those acts and principles that tend to make the lives about us better. The sooner each of us appreciate this fact the sweeter will our own lives be. Never before in the history of our country have the masses of our people been so urgently called upon to contribute their mite toward the welfare of the goverment as is true today. Are you contributing yours?

What is my Mite

We have said in these columns before that all of us will not be called to the front, but there is a duty equally important—the duty of helping the nation to encourage, to stimulate, to feed those who are throwing their lives as it were, upon the bloody altar of sacrifice that our children may breathe the pure air of a true democracy. Every hog you raise, every bushel of corn you grow, every chicken you produce, every slice of bread or meat you save from the garbage can, means a most valuable contribution toward this greater freedom—this world peace for which we are clamoring. Are you doing this? Then you are a positive and not a negative character.

My Community Obligations

What is my position in my community? In every community, there is a class of thoughtful and a class of thoughtless persons. A class that is restless to add its share toward the betterment of its community and a class whose ambition is to weaken—to destroy. To which class do you belong? Are you trying to turn on the torch-light of intelligence by helping to build better schoolhouses, extending your school terms, supporting and encouraging first-rate teachers and preachers? Are you seing to it that your community organizations—such as Mothers' Clubs, Boys' and Girls' Clubs and Local Farmers' Conferences are kept alive? If so you are on the positive side of life, otherwise you are on the negative side, dragging down instead of developing and substantiating character. Remember that a broken down home, school or church building resembles its owner and is a reflection on the fair name of any community, for a stream never rises higher than its source.

My Contribution to the War Fund

What more can I do to help win the war? Organize in your community a food conservation committee. Tell every school boy and every school girl of the importance of saving food. Show them that every time they economize in the matter of eating, of dressing, of spending that they have helped in a measure to buy a shell or fire a gun—they have helped to win the war. Not only should the matter of consuming less be stressed, but the matter of producing more, as well. According to a recent statement from the United States Department of Agriculture we need more meat. "To get an increased meat supply quickly, hog breeding must be increased materially throughout the country. To have this meat, breeding animals must reproduce themselves, so the offspring will be available for slaughter in the future." You can help greatly by urging every boy and girl to become a member of a pig club—visit your schools and give these talks to your school children. You have no idea of the great good you will accomplish. If 100,000 Negro boys will each raise one additional hog next year weighing 200 pounds each, there will be an increase of 20,000,000 pounds of meat—a wonderful contribution toward the support of the great cause in which we are now engaged. What will your community do in this direction? The answer to this question largely rests with you.

SAVE THE SOWS

Suggested as a Slogan for Farmers Who Wish to Prevent a Threatened Meat shortage.

Selling a brood sow at this time, according to the United States Department of Agriculture is like killing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

When pork is selling at 18 cents or more a pound on the hoof, the hog breeder may be tempted to turn into cash all that he can sell, yet the department points out that the value of a brood sow which will produce such high-priced offspring is proportionately increased and she should be kept as the source of further and future profits.

Since the beginning of the war the number of swine in all countries has decreased, and the decrease has been marked in some of the belligerent countries. In France, for example, in the three years just before January 1, 1917, the number of swine decreased 38.12 per cent; during 1915 the number in Germany decreased 31.47 per cent.

Situation Critical

Breeding stocks are being depleted, and the department says that the situation is already critical and threatens to become very serious if the country continues to be drained of its meats. Hogs furnish meat more quickly and cheaply than other stock can; the meat shortage, therefore, can most readily be met by swine production. It has been calculated that the possible increase from one sow is 1,002 pigs in four years, on the supposition that all litters consist of six pigs, that all live, that half are females, and that each gilt should farrow at one year and every six months thereafter.

Cut Feeding Expense

Another cause of the depletion of breeding stocks is probably in the high cost of feeds. While concentrated feeds have gone up, the department says that some of the expense of carrying breeding stocks may be cut down by the use of green fall forage crops, pasture, alfalfa or clover hay. Brood sows may be maintained in fair condition at comparatively little expense by the use of such feeds. By sowing in the corn, or as a cover crop on land which is likely to wash, sowing rape, or planting a root crop, the cost of wintering sows may be reduced. In brief, the department strongly recommends a campaign to save the sows as one means of helping to meet the threatened meat shortage.

SAVE VEGETABLE SEEDS

The home gardener who finds it difficult to get seed of his favcrite varieties of vegetables can save certain kinds of seeds to advantage in his own garden, according to J. C. Whitten of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture.

Tomato seeds can be saved at home. One should select well developed ripe tomatoes, preferably from the plant which has borne the best crop during the season. The tomatoes should be placed in the sun until they soften and become watery inside. The seeds then separate readily for the pulp. The tomatoes can be broken and washed out in a bucket of water. By rubbing and washing, the seeds soon separate from the flesh of the tomato and become clean. The water and pulp can be drained off and the clean seeds spread on a paper and dried in the sun. When thoroughly dried they can be placed in an envelope and saved for planting next spring. Seeds of cucumbers, muskmelons, watermelons, squash and pumpkins can be saved in a similar way. In selecting seeds of any of these vegetables remember it is best to secure them not only from a good fruit but from the plant which has borne the best general crop.

Seeds of radishes, beans, peas and okra are shelled dry from their pods and are readily saved. Even though the pods look dry, however, the seeds should be thoroughly dried in the sun for a few days before they are stored for winter. New seeds often contain water which slowly comes out even after the seeds look dry. If put away before they are fully dried out they are likely to mould. Cabbage, cauliflower, beets, carrots, parsnips, onions and salisfy are biennials. That is, the plants produce their seed crops the second year. To secure next season's seed crop the roots of these plants should be selected now. Select the best developed roots which may be stored over winter where they will not freeze. They can be planted in the garden as soon as danger of severe frost is over next spring. As soon as their seeds are ripe they can be separated from the pods, dried and stored for the following season.

These suggestions are not made to discourage the grower from patronizing reputable seedsmen. The gardener can often secure satisfactory seeds from a reputable seedsman with less trouble than he can save them himself. The leading seedsmen are expert in growing seeds and in selecting from the best stock. The majority of growers usually patronize the seedsmen who have the facilities for separating and storing seeds properly. Some growers, however, have a peculiar interest in saving their own seeds from those plants which prove to be especially good producers. Often the children of the family become interested in growing seeds from the best plants in the garden. Where for any reason it is desirous for the gardener to grow his own seeds, the practice is feasible.

FUMIGATION PROTECTS STORED BEANS AND PEAS

Folks who have stored beans and peas for the winter will need to protect them from weevils. Carbon bisulphide will give that protection. L. Haseman of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture gives directions for the treatment.

When the seeds are ready for storage place the sacks or other contain-

ers in a metal tank, chest or tight box, which is as free as posible from cracks along the sides and bottom. Pour the carbon bisulphide into a shallow dish, set the dish on top of the beans or peas in the box and spread a canvas or other cover over the top of the box. For a box two feet wide, two feet deep, and three feet long use a teacupful of carbon bisulphide. Use the same amount whether the box is half full or entirely filled with beans or peas. Select a warm day when the temperature is above 70 degrees Fahrenheit. In twenty-four hours remove the cover and allow the beans or peas to air. Then store them in an unheated room. This will protect the beans or peas through the winter. If the weevils are present again in spring the fumigation may be repeated.

Carbon bisulphide is a clear liquid with a foul odor and like gasoline it evaporates quickly. Its fumes are heavier than air so they settle downward, penetrating sacks of beans, grain or other food materials to be treated. The fumes are quickly fatal to weevils and other small insects, but are not especially poisonous to man. Keep the carbon bisulphide away from fires as it is explosive. If too much carbon bisulphide is used it may affect the germination of seeds, but it does not in any way affect their food value.

Small quantities of beans and peas may be treated with heat by placing them in a slow oven for an hour or two, bringing them to a temperature of 120 to 150 degress Fahrenheit, without injuring their food value though it may injure them for seed.

The bean and pea weevils deposit their eggs in the developing pods in the garden or field and the pest is brought into storage inside the dried peas and beans, so it is necessary that they be treated when first stored to prevent further damage. Carbon bisulphide may be used for destroying all kinds of stored grain insects, pests of cereals, flour, meal, clothes moths and other similar household pests.

School Lunches

FOODS THAT ARE BOTH NOURISHING AND PALATABLE SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MEET THE BODY'S NEEDS

Don't let the school lunch be merely something which will fill the lunch box in the morning and be only a sop to stay the kiddies' appetites from noon until night. Make it a real contribution to the food which the children require to meet the needs of their growing bodies and active brain—to satisfy their appetites and keep them in health.

These are the suggestions of home-economics specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, now that millions of the future citizens of the country are again eating their midday meal from box, basket, bag, or confectionery shop instead of from the family table under watchful parental eyes.

Expensive Foods Need Not Be Used.

The preparation of luncheons which will fill the needs of the child's body does not mean the use of more expensive foods or the expenditure of greater effort, the specialists point out. In many cases both expense and work will be lessened. What is needed for the preparation of more satisfactory lunches is merely that parents and "big sisters" or whoever fills the lunch box, shall inform themselves of certain facts in regard to the choice and combination of foods. The need in many cases is for neither more nor less food but for the repre--sentation of needed food groups. The necessary facts are set out plainly in Farmer's Bulletin 712, "School Lunches," which may be had free so long as the supply lasts by application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The following suggestions are among those made in the bulletin for well balanced lunches to be caried to school.

Basket Lunches

1. Sandwiches with sliced tender meat for filling, baked apple, cookies, or a few lumps of sugar.
2. Slices of meat loaf or bean loaf; bread and butter sandwiches; stewed fruit; small frosted cake.
3. Crisp rolls hollowed out and filled with chopped meat or fish, moistened and seasoned or mixed with salad dressing; orange, apple, a mixture of sliced fruits, or berries; cake.
4. Lettuce or celery sandwiches, cup custard; jelly sandwiches.
5. Cottage cheese and chopped green pepper sandwiches, or a pot of cream cheese with bread-and-butter sandwiches; peanut sandwiches; fruit cake.
6. Hard-boiled eggs; crisp baking-powder biscuits; celery or radishes; brown sugar or maple sugar sandwiches.
7. Bottle of milk; thin corn bread and butter; dates; apples.
8. Rasin or nut bread with butter; cheese; orange; maple sugar.
9. Baked bean and lettuce sandwiches; apple sauce; sweet chocolate.

SEED CORN CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Following the increased wheat production campaign which has been under way for several weeks the University of Missouri College of Agriculture has started a seed corn selection campaign as a war emergency measure. Corn is quite as important as a food crop as wheat and an increased acerage and an increased yield will contribute to the successful outcome of the war. Seed corn selection is one of the effective ways in which the yield of corn may be increased.

Ten men were placed in the field October 5. These men arranged a series of dates in North Missouri counties. Following the selection of dates the men began holding metings in the counties they had visited. They are working in co-operation with county farm bureaus and other farmers' organizations. They will hold from three to five community meetings in each county. Each meeting will be demonstrations of seed corn selection in the field. The other session will be held at night in some place convenient for the whole community.

These men together with the county agents, who will hold meetings in their own counties, will visit more than one hundred counties during the campaign.

IT'S TIME TO PLANT SPRING BULBS

The time for planting bulbs for outdoor spring flowers is here. Any time before the ground freezes will suit bulbs of such flowers as tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and crocus, which will furnish such pleasing masses of color about the home grounds in the early spring. Any well-drained garden soil will grow good bulbs, although wellrotted stable manure may be added if the soil is rather poor. The depth to plant the different sorts of bulbs varies, but they should be too deep rather than too shallow. About five inches will be right for hyacinths and narcissus, and an inch or two less for the bulbs of tulips, crocus, anemone and scylla.

The space to give each bulb also varies with the sort and variety, but the following distances are suggested by J. T. Rosa, Jr., of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture: hyacinths, 6 to 8 inches apart. narcissus 8 to 10 inches apart, tulips 5 to 8 inches apart. Small bulbs, as crocus, scylla and anemone are generally placed 2 or 3

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inches apart. After the ground is frozen, mulch the beds where bulbs have been planted with some leaves or strawy manure. This prevents freezing and thawing, also "heaving out" of the bulbs. This must be removed early in the spring. In the home garden, bulbs give more pleasing results when planted among shrubbery and plantings of other flowers than when planted in formal beds.

HIGH TESTING CREAM BRINGS BETTER PRICE

High testing cream is of benefit to both the cream producer and the butter manufacturer. The creameries realize this and many of them are urging their patrons to deliver cream of high butterfat content. Cream testing about 35 per cent fat is desirable for butter making because it can handled more cheaply and makes a better quality of butter than a thin cream. Because of these facts Creameries are able to pay their patrons top prices for high testing cream.

L. G. Rinkle of the University of Missouri Collgee of Agriculture mentions several reasons, from the farmer's point of view, why cream should be high in test. One of these is because of the improvement in the the quality of the cream as the test increases. A high testing cream will retain its good flavor much longer than a thin or low testing cream. The quality of the cream should be of the best, since it takes good cream to make good butter. Good butter commands a higher price than poor butter and thus produces higher returns to both the creamery and the farmer.

By separating the milk into high testing cream a larger quanity of skimmilk is obtained. The value of 100 pounds skimmilk is sometimes considered equal to that of half a bushel of corn. With the high-price feeds, it is therefore desirable to feed all the skim-milk possible. High testing cream makes possible more of this valuable feed.

The production of high testing cream also saves money for the farmer who ships cream. When cream tests 20 per cent it will cost 2 cents a pound butterfat to ship 50 pounds of it, if the express charges amount to 20 cents. When the cream tests 40 per cent it will cost but 1 cent a pound butterfat to ship fifty pounds, for the total charges will not be affected. This is a saving of one half on transportation charges and should be given careful consideration by the producer. With the production of 100 pounds of butterfat a month, increasing the cream test as shown would mean a saving of $1 a month.

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

(By Lou D. Sweat, Head Food Administration.)

It is of great importance that all the potatoes raised this year should be stored under proper conditions. Even when every precaution is taken, the wastage of the potatoes during the winter is considerable; under bad conditions of storage it is very great indeed.

In order that the best methods may be adopted by the small growers, those who have not had the experience in the storage of potatoes, should know the chief cause of the wastage. These causes are:

(1) Sweating, Heating and Consequent rot: often due to insufficient ventilation.

(2) Rotting: due to potatoes getting wet at the time of putting them in storage.

(3) Injury from frost.

(4) Decay: owing to disease in the tubers at the time of storage.

(5) Sprouting of tubers in the Spring.

It is not possible to prevent altogether losses from these causes, but by using the best methods of storage, it is possible to reduce them very materially.

This may be done by taking care to guard against losses from each of these causes:

(1) Sweating and Heating occur if the freshly dug potatoes are piled in too large piles, so that the air can not circulate between the tubers. The risk of loss from this cause is greatest in the fall, immediately after the tubers have been dug, and it is, therefore, important that potatoes when dug should not be put in unnecessarily large piles, nor kept in an ill-ventilated room.

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(2) Rotting from getting the Potatoes wet. If the potatoes at the digging time are allowed to get wet and go into storage in that conditio rotting is sure to occur. Be careful to have your potatoes dry before storing.

(3) Injury from frost. Potatoes are easily damaged by frost. If they become frozen, their market value is destroyed. Therefore, take every precaution to protect the tubers from frost before and after digging.

(4) Disease. There are several diseases of the potato which destroy the tuber, and if diseased tubers are mixed with the sound ones, the disease spreads rapidly; therefore, it is necessary to sort the potatoes carefully, eliminating all of the diseased cuts, culls and dirt before placing them into permanent storage for the winter. All of the cuts, culls misshapen and diseased tubers should be fed to the poultry and live stock, but should be steamed or boiled before being fed, as in this way you increase the food value, and also destroy the germs of the disease, so that it will not get into the manure and thence into the land.

(5) By proper ventilation of the cellar or storage room, and by holding the temperature as near 35 degrees F. as possible, you can keep the potatoes from sprouting.

Selection of Seed. Seed for next year's planting should be selected from hills that produce all nice, true to type potatoes. These should be selected at the digging time, and stored separately in crates or boxes, and by storing them in a well lighted room where the temperature can be held at from 34 to 40 degrees, with a little ventilation and this seed planted next spring, the grower will make a start toward improving the quality of his potatoes, [illegible] in the parts, simply planting the culls or runouts.

AN EXPERIENCE MEETING

Corn-club day in Decaturville, Tenn., on the last Saturday in July found most of the boy members of the club present, and also most of the grown-up farm folks from round about. There were no catchpenny amusements, no program of events. Instead, each boy got up and told about the work he was doing.

It was a succession of leaves read from the notebooks of their own experience, and those who heard said the experiences were worth listening to. A leading farmer said, "It was a great day. This day's work alone is worth all of the cost of the county agent."

One boy walked 13 miles to attend the meeting. Another boy who lived 7 miles away wrote that he was sorry he couldn't come. "My pony," he wrote, "has a sore back, so I can't ride him, and it's the only one I could get to ride."

GOOD MEAT WASTED ON HIDES

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dealer reports that an average of 6 pounds of waste meat as found on 40 cow and steer hides received at his plant, and that in ten days his men scraped 2,177 pounds of waste meat from hides, or enough to supply low-grade meat to about 5,000 people for one day. Faulty butchering, in addition to causing a loss of the food value of the meat which is wasted, results in a considerable loss of edible fats which remains on the hides.

POULTRY HOUSE WHITEWASH

A whitewash that disinfects, kills mites, and brightens the poultry house is made as follows: Slack 5 quarts of rock lime with hot water to about the consistency of cream. To this, add 1 pint of crude carbolic acid or zenoleum, and 1 quart of kerosene. Stir thoroughly, and dilute with twice its own volume of water. Apply with either spray pump or whitewash brush. When properly prepared, this solution serves three purposes: The zenoleum acts as a disinfectant, killing the germs; the kerosene penetrates the wood, destroying the mites; and the lime whitens the walls, making the building sweet and light.

MEETING NEGRO FARMERS

That same night the county agent, W. J. Flanery, was called on to talk to a meeting of Negro farmers. They kept him until midnight answering questions. He asked a few himself and found out that 95 per cent of them were raising enough vegetables to keep their families supplied with food till the next crop season and that 25 per cent of them owned and worked their own farms.

BEDTIME FOR STRAWBERRIES

It's time to put your strawberries to bed for the winter in a heavy blanket of straw just as soon as the ground is frozen hard enough to bear the weight of a wagon, say horticulturists at the University Farm. Coarse straw or very coarse, weed-free makes the best winter wrap for these plants. Manure is likely to heat and thus injure them. Fine material of any kind will smother them out.

HOW TO GET A GOOD SCHOOL HOUSE

The laws of the State of Alabama, will hereafter compel every parent to send his children to school at least 80 days every year. What are you doing to comfortably house these children? Have you made any efforts to build a new schoolhouse, or will you sit down and content yourself with that old broken down building that is injuring the health of your boys and girls? Mr. Julius Rosenwald through the Tuskegee Institute, is offering to help the colored people of the rural districts throughout the South to build better schoolhouses. This means that your community can get some of this money. For further information, write

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